



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
(new location)
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

June 10th, 2019

July 8th, 2019

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page. Thank you to
Natalie KM6UCF.

What's New

KARO ECHO Meeting June 10, **New Time and Location**, 1900 in El Cerrito

Reminder that the KARO ECHO meeting time has been moved up to 1900 from the previous time of 1930. The location is now at the Arlington Park Clubhouse. The meeting will be held on Monday June 10 at Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA.

Successful FRS/GMRS EMCOMM Training, Held on June 4

KARO ECHO hosted this CERT oriented training to encourage those without ham licenses to learn more about how to effectively use FRS/GMRS radios in an emergency communication situation and how to bridge to ham operators like KARO ECHO. Thanks to Geoff Lomax, co-founder of BeCERTAINN who presented about the use of GMRS repeaters to support emergency communications. There are [several useful documents with additional information about this topic on the KARO ECHO website](#).

Field Day June 22 – 23, Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley

EBARC and NALCO are organizing a [field day installation](#) at Cesar Chavez park in Berkeley. [Sign up to volunteer](#) for setup and/or radio operation.

August 17th, 0900-1300, West County Radio Exercise

While not a KARO ECHO exercise, operators are encouraged to participate for practice communication over a broad area of west Contra Costa County. This drill will use a survey of areas with fire hazards as a premise to test communication ability by several means including FRS, GMRS, ham and digital. More [details can be found at this link](#) and the [WA6KQB website](#). Contact DJ, KJ6DJ www.4cs.comm@gmail.com if you intend to participate.

Volunteer Leads Needed

KARO ECHO is looking for someone seek out grant opportunities and write grant applications. This important job could really help expand the scope of our activities.

LOCAL NETS

KARO ECHO NET

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX =5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Natalie KM6UCF

Vice President Pro Tem:

Don NI6A

Emergency Coordinator:

Jamuel KM6HBO

Exec Board Member at Large, and newsletter editor:

Howdy KE6BEE

Webmaster: Rob K6RJM

What's New *(continued)*

Prototype Antenna Patch Boxes for El Cerrito Clubhouses

In order to establish ready access to the installed antennas on the Tassajara and Harding Clubhouses (on the north and south ends of El Cerrito respectively), we are proposing to install lockable exterior boxes with a coax connectors inside to allow ham operators to patch into these roof top antennas with their handheld or mobile radios. A prototype was displayed at the May 13th meeting (pictured below). The city is still reviewing the proposed installation. Two boxes are built and ready to go. They each contain two separate coax connectors, as we also hope to add a separate FRS/GMRS antenna at these locations. If these installations go well, we may be able to explore install similar antennas and patch boxes at additional locations.



The patch box can be opened by a combination that will be shared with KARO ECHO members.

While, the box shown is not designed for extreme weather exposure, the installation locations have deep overhangs and will not be subject to driving rain. The door has been gasketed and the knockouts have been sealed with silicone and covered internally with sheet metal to further improve weathertightness. The appearance of electrical knockouts make it less attractive as a box that might contain valuables.



Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the 8 volunteer stations who have been taking turns at NCS over the past few months. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster is growing to 10, as we are adding Dave Roth and Karen Leong-Fenton. There are opportunities to fill in when a regular station has a scheduling conflict and there is always room to add more stations to the rotation.

[Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Action Item: Help create a deep pool of skilled NC operators. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	K6RJM	Rob McNicholas
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	NI6A	Don Simon
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow	KK6SRD	Ken Gustafson
KM6TCB	Dave Roth	KK6ZPM	Karen Leong-Fenton

Thanks to everyone who participates in the weekly net. Calendar year 2018 had 47 unique call signs check-in to our Thursday net. Less than half way through 2019, we already have 42 unique check-ins including 13 new call signs since the beginning of this year. Three of those new calls first checked-in during the May 30 net. Welcome: KN6BGK, KN6BVF, and KN6BDW. Other new calls for 2019 include: KJ6IWO, KJ6IWQ, KN6ACA, KM6TBM, KM6WEX, KJ6PPR, N7ISU, KM6SNR, KJ6SWK, KM6YYW.

KARO ECHO Mobile Radio “Go-kit” Needs a Home

A fully featured mobile radio “go-kit” with large battery, antenna and accessories (including message forms and documentation) is available to be deployed somewhere in El Cerrito. We are looking for a secure but accessible storage location that has electricity for the battery float charger. Ideally, this would be something like a lockable outbuilding in a backyard that could be easily reached in case of a disaster by more than one ham. Contact Don NI6A (ni6a@arrl.net), if you have ideas on locating the radio go-kit.

BeCERTAINN Exercise Recording

On May 4th BeCERTAINN conducted a radio exercise in coordination with a wider emergency exercise in Berkeley. [A recording was made of the net traffic](#) of their GMRS repeater and simplex operations during the exercise.

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Arlington Park Clubhouse, 1120 Arlington Blvd, El Cerrito, CA. The next meetings are:

- ♦ June 10th, 2019
- ♦ July 8th, 2019

Yearly dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Mail to:

KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>. Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARH-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is still 146.415 MHz simplex. **Our secondary frequency however has been changed to 146.475 MHz simplex** thus creating a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies that will reduced adjacent frequency desensing.

KARO ECHO Dues

Action Item: Please send in your dues to KARO ECHO -- P.O. Box 2025 -- El Cerrito, CA. 94530-3651 or see Larry at this Monday's meeting at the Arlington Park clubhouse. You can still be a non-voting member of KARO ECHO without paying dues, but only licensed Amateur Radio Operators and dues paying members will be allowed to vote. So if you can't afford \$30 for full membership (or \$40) for family membership), please come and participate in any case. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications are welcome.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Ham Class/Exam

June 12th will be a VE Exam session beginning 1830 at the Arlington Park Clubhouse in El Cerrito. Bring your photo ID (CA DL), FRN, and \$15 (Cash or Check). This is being held for students in the joint KaroEcho and East Bay Amateur Radio club (EBARC) Technician Class, but others are welcome to take any test level they have studied for. A great opportunity to upgrade.

KARO ECHO Ham Cram

The KaroEcho Ham Cram is still in the works for the Summer; but it will require more volunteers. So far Jamuel KM6HBO, Andy AI6PW, David KJ6AAT, and Don NI6A have volunteered to help as Volunteer Examiners. Others have come forward.

We need to spread this and other efforts out to more concerned members to avoid burning out our small and dedicated core members. Please ask how you can help.

SET Video on YouTube

We are looking for volunteers to take the lead producing a video documenting the Feb 23 SET using assorted voice recordings, videos, photos, and narration. If you have any video editing or production skills (or you can recommend someone) please contact ni6a@arrl.net We need your help -- don't be shy.

ELMERING

Don is available for **Elmering/Mentoring**. Email ni6a@arrl.net

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of disaster radio communications topics at <https://www.karoecho.net> website and/or request specific literature to be created.

CERT SET YouTube Video

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Net Demonstration For New Hams

Howdy KE6BEE hosted a net demonstration on April 25th at the Harding Clubhouse in El Cerrito. Four students about to take their license exam attended to observe and listen to the KARO ECHO net from the NCS operating station. This was a helpful real world demonstration of what they have been studying in class and a chance to ask questions. Future in-person radio operation demonstrations may be a way to encourage new hams to regularly get on the air.

Communications Handout to the CERT Graduates

A one page handout for CERT trainees regarding disaster communications was distributed to the CERT class ending April 23rd. The handout includes an outline of how neighborhood blocks will communicate with CERT area command posts, as well as between CERT area command posts and the EOC. The flyer also publicized the June 4th FRS/GMRS EMCOMM training organized by KARO ECHO. The following is the draft that we started from https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QuU1EkkXipGgu9lNUur_xli38Tv8zRvGimgJ1lp0B8g/ There is still more work needed on refining the organizational structure of the CERT program as it relates to interfacing with radio communications in a disaster.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ◆ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ◆ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ◆ A follow-through novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>
- ◆ Also a new Dual-Band antenna primer for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world is at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u_ozABBRYDJDACFJRTV_rxWF1WjCgW_I/view
- ◆ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ◆ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
On every Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at <https://www.karoecho.net/events/past-events>
- ◆ Note: See the **KARO ECHO Agenda** for our upcoming Monday, June 10th, 2019 Meeting see: <https://www.karoecho.net/events> the agenda will be made available no later than the Sunday immediately preceding the meeting.
- ◆ All recent KARO ECHO **Minutes will be found at our Past Events page** We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page.](#)

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, ni6a@arrl.net